



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 9, 2009

Riverside Emergency Shelter goes solar

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The Riverside Emergency Shelter, 2840 Hulen Place, a residential facility for homeless men and women, is now part of the clean energy push.

The building, run by the Path of Life Ministries, came online with their rooftop solar system June 29, generating 68 kilowatts (kW) of photovoltaic power. It will help meet the majority of the facility's power needs.

The \$580,000 project was a joint effort among Riverside Public Utilities (RPU), Riverside's Development Department and Southern California's Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

"This is great news," said Riverside Public Utilities General Manager David H. Wright. "It seems like just the other day we surpassed our 1 megawatt goal, now we've increased that another 25 percent."

This brings the city's total solar generation to 1,257.16 kilowatts (kW) or 1.2 megawatts. One megawatt is enough energy to power 750 homes.

"It's a huge blessing," said Tracy Fitzsimmons, administrative director of the Path of Life Ministries in Riverside. "With our high ceilings, our building is hard to cool in the summer and hard to warm in the winter. We were paying around \$2700 a month in power bills. All that money will go right back to offering direct services to the homeless."

RPU and the city's development department helped facilitate grant funding between AQMD and Path of Life Ministries. AQMD funded \$327,600 and RPU provided a solar rebate of \$252,525.

"The multi-agency effort brings attention to the need for these types of facilities and will help the city's homeless shelter reduce operating costs," Wright said.

To date, there are 12 RPU-funded solar energy projects in the city -- on low-income housing units, a local senior center, a homeless services center, city pool

facilities, city hall and at local train stations. With private residential photovoltaic systems in the city, they contribute more than 1.2 megawatts of clean energy to the grid.

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 107,000 metered electric customers and 63,400 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com

www.GreenRiverside.com

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